

Rev. ROGER BULIARD, O.M.I. — « *Inuk* » (322 pp. - Straus and Young). \$ 3,50.

The « *Commonweal N.Y.* » (N.Y.) writes about Fr. Buliard's « *Inuk* »:

« Father Buliard is a member of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, an order famous for accepting the most difficult assignments in the foreign mission fields...

« *Inuk* » means a man... It is a proud word as the Eskimos use it, and Father Buliard, a Frenchman, born an Eyebrow... has earned it. A thousand different ways he has earned it. Christian and Priest are also proud words, and Roger Buliard has earned them too.

*Inuk* is an account of his first 15 years in the ice country. He unfolds a thousand new facts about the Eskimos, their daily lives, their ways, their psychology, their virtues and failings. The reader too learns much of Father Buliard's own valiant efforts to bring the Gospel to a handful of forgotten people at the ends of the earth. It is quite a story, and its author is quite a man, quite a man. »

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Following quotations about Fr. Buliard's best-seller « *Inuk* » were published by American papers:  
*Long Beach Press-Telegram* Cal.

« *Inuk* »... is Father Roger Buliard's story of his mission activities among the Eskimos, a work that charmed Pius XI so much that he gave him a chalice to say mass on top of the world. A book of great depth which brings a new concept of the Eskimo.

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*Denver Post* Colo.

#### ESKIMOS WERE HIS PARISHIONERS

... Father Buliard's account of his life is a book in itself but « *Inuk* » is much more than just a

personal diary. It is unquestionably one of the most penetrating and readable accounts of the nomadic Eskimos and their barren home-land ever published...

« Inuk » is one of the year's most readable books, one to be enjoyed by every member of the family.

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*Taunton Gazette* Mass.

I have never been much interested in the marriage customs of the Eskimos, but Roger Buliard's « Inuk »... is a thrilling book. It is a true account of a young French priest who has chosen to spend his priesthood among the Eskimos, in a land that lives under a shroud of ice and where people possess unusual technical skill.

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*Marshfield News-Herald* Wis.

« Inuk » is adventure, excitement, and an interesting picture of the Arctic wastes and the people who live there, told by Roger Buliard, a Catholic priest who has spent 15 years in the far North. He gives accounts of the Eskimo way of life—their family life, religion, occupations and their dim outlook for the future...

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*Boston Herald* Mass.

**LIFE WITH ESKIMOS**

Benign charm dwells in these pages just as a gracious spirit guided the author's mission to the Eskimos. For 15 years Father Buliard lived with, studied, and converted the people of the farthest north region that lies along the Arctic Ocean.

His intimate story makes light of his many hardships to tell of the Eskimo's struggle for survival...

With gentle humor he reports on these « genuine primitives », on their (to us) amoral ways, scorn of the white man, unpredictable traits, sly-cunning, and amazing hospitality... The beauty and terror of blizzards, fogs, and Northern Lights are described in glowing, poetic prose. But his interest is in the people themselves. His book is full of anecdotes of individuals and ends with a plea for their future. Monsignor Fulton J. Sheen says in the introduction: « This missionary's diary is at once a geography, a psychology and a summons to heroism. »

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*Los Angeles Times.*

### PRIEST AMONG THE ESKIMOS

It may seem to you that you have seen a good many books about the Frozen North. Actually there haven't been so many good ones about the Eskimo, though there have been a few. Cancel out the books which are chiefly about exploration and about the Eskimo only incidentally, and you can come close to counting them on the fingers of one hand.

The reason, of course, is that to do a really good book such as this you've got to go and live with the Eskimos, not merely run up, take a look and come away again. A few have done it, to be sure, but not as many as you'd think.

Latest to write about the Eskimo—and from first-hand knowledge over a long period—is Father Roger P. Buliard, a Catholic Priest who has spent something like a decade and a half with these people. He calls his book « INUK »... and, because he is a sharp observer as well as a dedicated man, what he writes bears the imprimatur of solid background knowledge and understanding. It is also good reading for Father Buliard has a sense of drama and a

direct convincing way of telling about his adventures and his work...

... It is a narrative of high adventure and of Christian consecration to a special task that Father Buliard tells, and the reader will respect the determination—and the good humor, which is no small part of mere survival under such circumstances—with which the author tackled his work.

The body of the book is straight-out story material, filled with notes on Eskimo life as shrewd as though an anthropologist, which Father Buliard has had to be in a practical sort of way...

... Father Buliard, you see, writes a fine and exciting story, which is in itself good. But, also—and what a man is like always comes through in a book of this kind—he's a chap worth meeting in print, as every page of his writing testifies. « Inuk » is headed for at least a modest success, I believe, and when you read it you'll see why.

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*Oskaloosa Herald* 1a.

### THE FROZEN DESERT

Not long ago an intelligent young man wrote a book about Eskimos entirely from sources in the New York Public Library. « Inuk » is a horse of very different color. It was written by a French missionary who spent 15 years among the Canadian Eskimos, and got to know them better than they do themselves. Thus, in place of the novelty of a library-bred book, Father Buliard offers the sum of his long sojourn in the frozen desert of the North, and a rich experience it proved to be...

The reader will learn many fascinating things about the Eskimos from this observant missionary...

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## *Saturday Review of Literature* New York, N.Y.

... Buliard devoted himself to his ecclesiastical studies and joined the Oblate Fathers, a group which specialized in paying man's debt to God in the most difficult possible manner...

The Oblate Fathers took to this situation as ducks to water... Like Augustine, he realized that a man best comes to understand that which he truly loves...

Yet Roger Buliard was more than a mere messenger of the spirit; he was an intensely human, intensely practical man. He combined in his priesthood the interests of a man of God, those of an anthropologist, and those of an explorer...

... He wore his vestments only on occasions of the greatest ceremony. He freely modified the routine and ritual of the Church to suit conditions. Yet he never gave up one smallest particle of his belief in God nor, I think, his faith in man. Many a missionary in his shoes, believing that he must measure success by the number of souls he had saved, would have thought himself a failure. Not so Buliard. He was doing what he believed to be God's work... |

Here is the record, inspiring and inspiriting, of a truly noble character, the stuff of which literature is made. Here, too, is the record of a keenly observant mind, the stuff of which science at its best is made. Father Buliard's notes on the Eskimo language are both interesting and valuable. His geographical observations are as worthy (which is more than can be said of Mgr. Fulton J. Sheen's Introduction to the Book, in which he locates the Aleutian Islands in Bering Strait). His presentation of the history, habits, mythology, and general lore of the Eskimo is good and full enough to make a book by itself. Above all, this is a remarkable, highly entertaining narrative of genuine adventure. Not since

« My Life with the Eskimo » has a better book come out of the Arctic.

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Rev. FRANK-J. MONTALBANO, O.M.I. — *Canaanite Dagon: Origin, nature* (reprint from the Catholic Biblical Quarterly, October, 1951, pp. 381-397).

We gather from this scholarly monograph that Dagon, according to tablets dating a century and a half before the Israelite conquest of the land of Canaan (i.e. circa 1375 B.C.) was one of the important deities of the region. Recent excavations (1929-1933) have brought to light a temple of Dagon at Ras-Shamrach and our learned confrère concludes: « ... the cult of Dagan was prominent in Assyria, Babylonia, Syria and Palestine for over a millennium and a half, namely from the time of Sargon I (who acceded to power about 2360 B.C. and was the first Semite to conquer the ancient world) to about the time of Asarhaddon (680-699). » As to the role or function of Dagon (or Dagan), after an exhaustive study of authors, Father Montalbano, whose purpose is to « throw light on Caananite Dagon by studying him in his Mesopotamian origin, coupled with Canaanite sources », judges that the evidence is in favour of the theory that this deity was a weather-god in Mesopotamia, but the Canaanites regarded him as a cereal god.—J.W.M.